

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /090 W
-----070999 281809Z /11

P R 281725Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7553
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T LONDON 10298

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS MOPS YS
SUBJECT: LATEST INFO FROM FCO ON SITUATION IN THE YEMENS

REF: LONDON 10221

1. BEAUMONT, FCO DESK OFFICER FOR THE YEMENS, REVIEWED THE MOST RECENT CABLE TRAFFIC ON THE SITUATION IN ADEN FOR EMBOFF ON JUNE 28. BEAUMONT NOTED THAT FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPT STILL HAS NOT FIGURED OUT WHO ACTUALLY STARTED SHOOTING FIRST IN ADEN, AND IS DREADING THE FIRST FORMAL

ASSESSMENTS MEETING IN WHICH THEY WILL BE ASKED TO COME WITH A FIRM HYPOTHESIS. FCO DOES NOT BELIEVE FOREIGN MINISTER MUTIE'S VERSION (REFTEL).

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2. THE TWO PEOPLE EXECUTED WITH ALI WERE ALI SALEM LAWER, FORMERLY MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND THEN SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, AND JA'AM SALEH, A POLITICAL ORGANIZER FROM THE THIRD GOVERNORATE AREA, ALI'S HOME AREA. APPARENTLY ALL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET SIDED WITH ISMAIL.

3. EMBOFF NOTED THE REPORTS OF NAVAL UNITS OPENING FIRE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIGHTING. BEAUMONT CHECKED WITH BRITISH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, WHICH OPINED THAT THE PDRY NAVY HAS NO VESSELS CARRYING ARMAMENT LARGER THAN 40 MM. ISSUE IS OF COURSE WHETHER ANY SOVIET NAVAL UNITS PARTICIPATED IN THE SHELLING. EMBOFF NOTED THAT IN A HITHERTO QUIET AREA, IF SOMEONE OPENS UP WITH 40 MM IT SOUNDS STARTLINGLY LOUD AND THIS COULD HAVE BEEN THE "NAVAL SHELLING." BEAUMONT AGREED, BUT ALSO AGREED THE IDENTITY OF THE NAVAL UNITS IS STILL UNDETERMINED.

4. EMBOFF NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO AHAM VERSION QUOTED IN TODAY'S LONDON TIMES, "WHILE THE ENVOY WAS ON HIS WAY (TO SANA), PRESIDENT RUBAYYA LEARNED THAT THE BRIEF-CASE HAD BEEN REPLACED BY A BOOBY-TRAPPED CASE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM ADEN...HE ATTEMPTED TO TELEPHONE PRESIDENT GHASHMI TO WARN HIM BUT...IT WAS TOO LATE." BEAUMONT AGREED THAT THE ORIGINAL BRIEF-CASE HAD PROBABLY BEEN REPLACED BY THE LETHAL BRIEF-CASE IN ADEN RATHER THAN IN SANA.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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